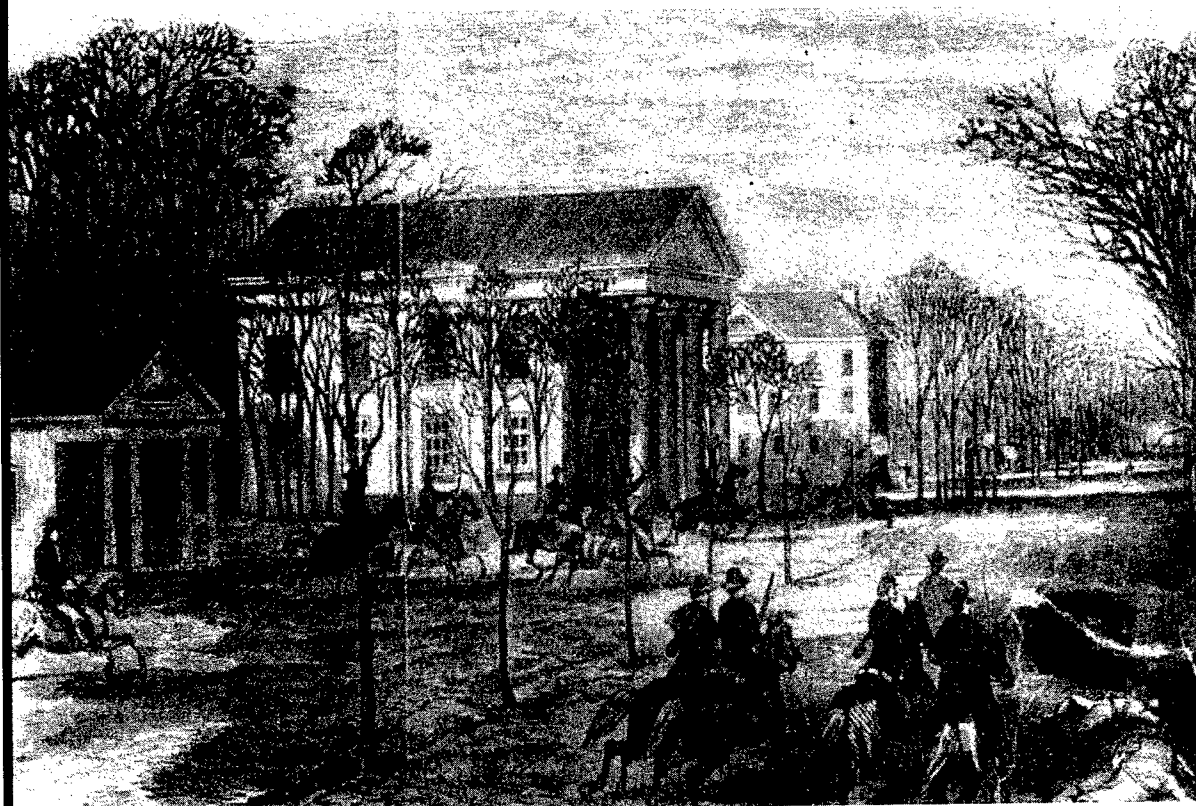


Cultural Resources Survey of Wilson Branch Improvements Project Chesterfield County, South Carolina

Final Report

Contract No. DACA01-02-D-0001, Delivery Order 0013



**Brockington and Associates, Inc.
Atlanta Charleston Raleigh
2002**

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Prepared for

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Cheraw, South Carolina

and

US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
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October 2002

Abstract

In May 2002, Brockington and Associates, Inc., conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of approximately 6.8 hectares (17 acres) of stream bank along Wilson Branch, in the Town of Cheraw, South Carolina. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed Wilson Branch improvements extends 8-30 meters (25-100 feet) to either side of the current stream bank. Investigators identified no archaeological sites or isolated finds during the field investigations. The Cheraw Historic District is located 200 meters (660 feet) east of the Wilson Branch improvements project. However, the proposed improvement will not affect this historic property. We recommend no further management consideration of the proposed Wilson Branch improvements project with regard to cultural resources.

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Chapter I. Introduction

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) proposes to restore portions of the Wilson Branch watershed in Chesterfield County, South Carolina. On 13-14 May 2002, archaeologists with Brockington and Associates, Inc., conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of 2,564 meters (8,410 feet), approximately 6.8 hectares (17 acres) of bankline along Wilson Branch in the Town of Cheraw. The project tract begins south of US Route 52 and extends 836 meters (2,742 feet) along Wilson Branch, to where Wilson Branch diverges into two unnamed tributaries. From this point, the project tract continues along the respective banks of each of the two tributaries. The project area 994 meters (3,260 feet) along the southeastern stream branch, and 734 meters (2,407 ft) along the southwestern stream branch. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed improvements to Wilson Branch extends 8-30 meters (25-100 feet) inland from the current stream banks. We conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the APE to determine if land disturbing activities will affect any historic properties. Figure 1 shows the improvements project on the USGS 1988 Cheraw, SC quadrangle.

This work was conducted for NRCS through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District in compliance with state and federal regulations concerning the management of cultural resources affected through development activities in the Coastal Zone of South Carolina. Compliance is administered by the regulatory programs of the

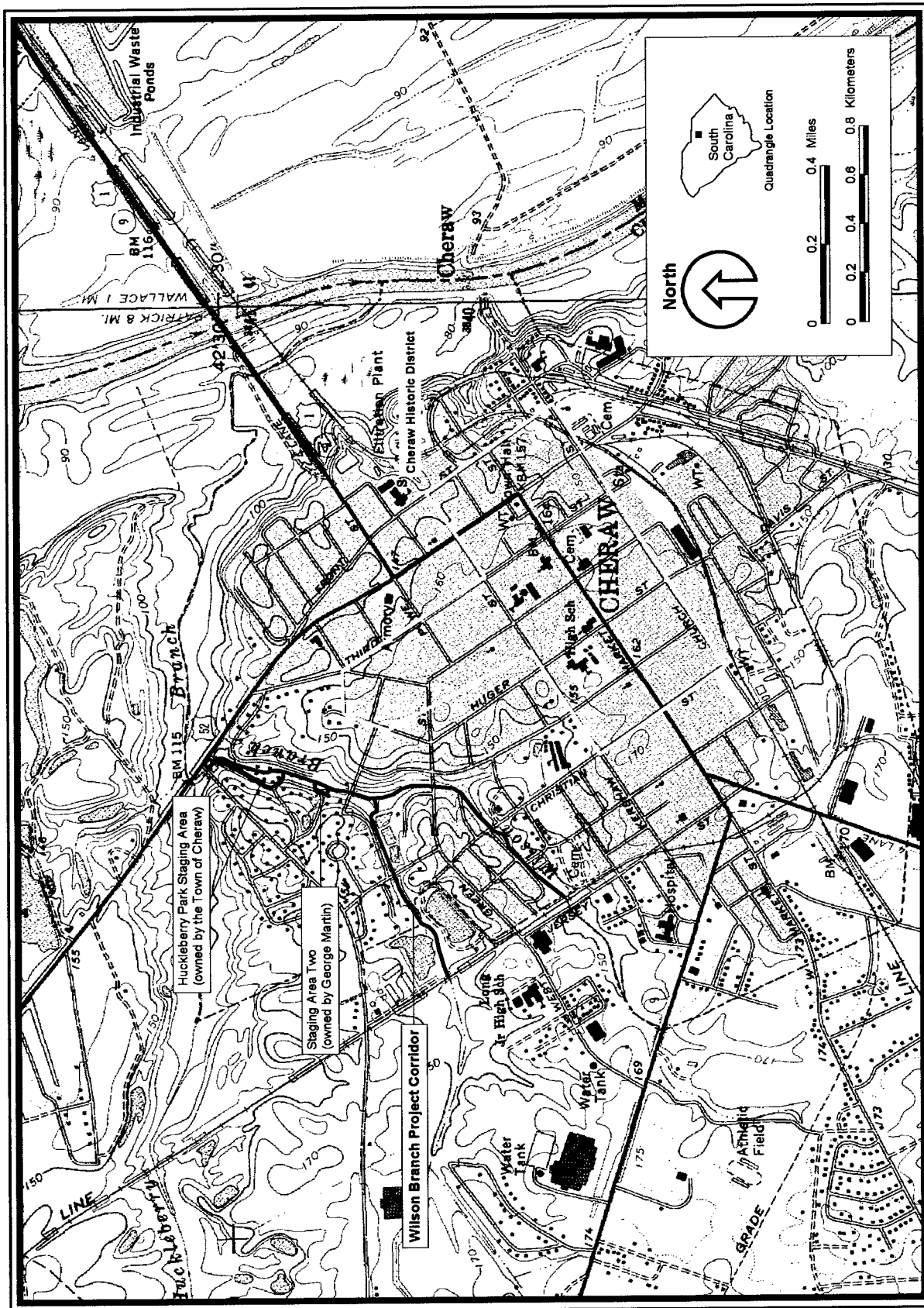


Figure 1. Location of the Wilson Branch and nearby cultural resources (USGS 1988 Cheraw, SC quadrangle).

USACE (33 CFR 325) and the South Carolina Bureau of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM-15 CFR 930). These laws and regulations include:

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1948 [33 USC 1344], as amended,
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [16 USC 470], as amended,
36 CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties,
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 [16 USC 1451 *seq.*], as amended, and
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1976 [Chapter 39, Title 48, SC Code], as amended.

Archaeologists surveyed approximately 6.8 hectares (17 acres) of stream bank along Wilson Branch. We excavated one transect on each side of Wilson Branch from US Route 52 (836 meters [2,742 feet]) south to the bisection of the stream into two branches. From the point of the stream's divergence into two unnamed tributaries, we continued the traverse of one pedestrian transect on each side of each tributary. The project extends 994 meters (3,260 feet) along the southeastern branch and 734 meters (2,407 feet) along the southwestern branch. We excavated 30 by 30 cm (1 by 1 foot) shovel tests at 30 meter (100 foot) intervals along each pedestrian transect to provide systematic coverage of the project.

Investigators observed no archaeological materials in any of the shovel tests or on the ground surface throughout the examined area. We identified no historic properties (buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts eligible for or listed on the NRHP) in the APE during intensive survey and background research of the proposed Wilson Branch improvements project. The Cheraw Historic District is located 200 meters (660 feet) east of the APE. The Wilson Branch improvements project will not affect this historic property. We recommend no further management consideration of the proposed Wilson Branch improvements project with respect to cultural resources.

Chapter II of this report discusses the natural and cultural setting of the improvements project. Chapter III details the results of the cultural resources survey and presents a project summary and management recommendations. Appendix A includes the resume of the principal investigator.

Methods of Investigation

Background Research

During the background research, we examined archival and cartographic resources in various libraries and repositories and reviewed reports of previous cultural resource investigations. We conducted archival research at the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina (Columbia), the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) in Columbia, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) in Columbia, and the South Carolina Room of the Charleston County Public Library (Charleston). The purpose of this research was to identify potential historic or prehistoric sites and buildings, and to develop a historic context that would assist in evaluating cultural resources.

We collected information concerning the past ownership of the project tract along Wilson Branch from the Chesterfield County Courthouse. We also utilized secondary sources in an effort to provide an understanding of the nature of the possible occupations and land usage of the project tract. The most valuable source was a number of local informants from Cheraw who had a first-hand knowledge of Wilson Branch.

Previous Investigations

The Project Historian reviewed the archaeological site files at the SCIAA in Columbia, for any recorded archaeological sites within 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) of the improvements project. The Cheraw Historic District is located 200 meters (660 feet) east of the improvements project (see Figure 1). There are no previously recorded archaeological sites within 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) of the project.

Field Investigations

This cultural resources survey entailed the systematic examination of approximately 6.8 hectares (17 acres) of bankline along Wilson Branch (see Figure 1). The proposed improvements project begins within the Town of Cheraw. The northern project terminus is south of Route 52; Jersey Street marks the southern terminus of the APE. Archaeologists traversed one transect on each side of Wilson Branch; the transects were located 30 meters (100 feet) from the creek bank. We excavated shovel tests along each transect at 30 meter (100 foot) intervals. Each shovel test measured approximately 30 cm (1 foot) in diameter and was excavated to sterile subsoil. We backfilled all shovel tests after excavation. Shovel tests were not excavated in disturbed areas or wetlands. We visually inspected all wetlands and highly disturbed areas.

Investigators sifted the fill through 6.35 mm (0.25 inch) mesh hardware cloth. They recorded information relating to each shovel test in field notebooks. This information included the content (e.g., presence or absence of artifacts) and context (e.g., soil color,

texture, stratification) of each test. No artifacts were recovered from any shovel test or from ground surface.

An archaeological site is any area of contiguous positive shovel tests or surface finds producing at least three associated artifacts within a 45 meter (158 foot) radius. We considered areas with less than three artifacts isolated finds (SCDAH 2000). No sites or isolated finds were identified in the Wilson Branch APE.

Assessing NRHP Eligibility

Cultural resources are evaluated for listing on the NRHP. As per 36 CFR 60.4, there are four broad evaluative criteria for assessing eligibility to the NRHP. Any resource that:

- A. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history;
- B. is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past;
- C. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory

may be eligible for the NRHP. A resource may be eligible under one or more of these criteria. Criteria A, B, and C are most frequently applied to historic buildings, structures, objects, non-archaeological sites (e.g., battlefields, natural features, designed landscapes, or cemeteries), or districts. The eligibility of archaeological sites is most frequently considered with respect to Criterion D. Also, a general guide of 50 years of age is employed to define

"historic" in the NRHP evaluation process. That is, all resources greater than 50 years of age may be considered. However, more recent resources may be considered if they display "exceptional" significance (Sherfy and Luce n.d.).

Following *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Savage and Pope 1998:3), evaluation of any resource requires a twofold process. First, the resource must be associated with an important historic context. Second, if this association is demonstrated, the integrity of the resource must be evaluated to ensure that it conveys the significance of its context. The application of these steps is discussed in more detail below.

Determining the association of a resource with a historic context involves five steps (Savage and Pope 1998:7). First, the resource must be associated with a particular facet of local, regional (state), or national history; examples relevant to this project include Antebellum Agricultural Development in the Inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina, or Late Nineteenth/Early Twentieth Century Development of rural areas in South Carolina. These facets will represent the context within which any particular resource developed.

Second, one must determine the significance of the identified historical facet/context with respect to the resource under evaluation. As an example, if the project tract contained no buildings that were constructed during the early nineteenth century, then the Antebellum Agricultural context noted above would not be significant for the development of the project area or any of its internal resources. Similarly, a lack of archaeological sites within the project tract would preclude the use of contexts associated with the prehistoric use of a region.

The third step is to demonstrate the ability of a particular resource to illustrate the context. A resource should be a component of the locales and features created or used during the historical period in question. Early nineteenth century farm houses, the ruins of African-American slave settlements from 1820s, and/or field systems associated with particular antebellum plantations in the region would illustrate various aspects of the agricultural development of the region prior to the Civil War. Conversely, contemporary churches or road networks may have been used during this time period but do not reflect the agricultural practices suggested by the other kinds of resources.

The fourth step is to determine the specific association of a resource with aspects of the significant historic context. Savage and Pope (1998:11-24) define how one should consider a resource under each of the four criteria of significance. Under Criterion A, a resource must have existed at the time that a particular event or pattern of events occurred and activities associated with the event(s) must have occurred at the site. In addition, this association must be of a significant nature, not just a casual occurrence (Savage and Pope 1998:12). Under Criterion B, the resource must be associated with historically important individuals. Again, this association must relate to the period or events that convey historical significance to the individual, not just that this person was present at this locale (Savage and Pope 1998:15-16). Under Criterion C, a resource must possess physical features or traits that reflect a style, type, period, or method of construction; display high artistic value; or, represent the work of a master (an individual whose work can be distinguished from others and possesses recognizable greatness [Savage and Pope 1998:20]). Under Criterion D, a resource must possess sources of information that can address specific important research

questions (Savage and Pope 1998:22). These questions must generate information that is important in reconstructing or interpreting the past (Butler 1987; Townsend et al.1993). For archaeological sites, recoverable data must be able to address specific research questions.

Once a cultural resource is associated with a specific significant historic context, the next step is to determine what physical features of the resource adequately reflect its significance. To this end, several criteria are assessed, including: 1) how the resource type may be associated with the context; 2) how these resources represent the theme; and finally, 3) which aspects of integrity apply to the resource in question (Savage and Pope 1998:8). As in the Antebellum Agriculture example given above, a variety of resources may reflect this context (farm houses, ruins of slave settlements, field systems, etc.). How these resources reflect the context must be demonstrated. The farm houses represent the residences of the principal landowners who were responsible for implementing the agricultural practices that drove the economy of coastal South Carolina during the antebellum period. Individuals conducting the vast majority of the daily activities necessary to plant, harvest, process, and market crops lived within the slave settlements.

Once the above steps are completed and the association with a historically significant context is demonstrated, one must consider the aspects of integrity applicable to a resource. Integrity is defined in seven aspects of a resource; one or more may be applicable depending on the nature of the resource under evaluation. These aspects are *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association* (36 CFR 60.4; Savage and Pope 1998:44). If a resource does not possess integrity with respect to these aspects, it cannot adequately reflect or represent its associated historically significant context. Therefore, it cannot be

eligible for the NRHP. To be considered eligible under Criteria A and B, a resource must retain its essential physical characteristics that were present during the event(s) with which it is associated. Under Criterion C, a resource must retain enough of its physical characteristics to reflect the style, type, etc., or work of the artisan that it represents. Under Criterion D, a resource must be able to generate data that can address specific research questions that are important in reconstructing or interpreting the past.

Chapter II. Project Area Setting

Environmental Setting

Chesterfield County lies in the inner Coastal Plain of South Carolina, southeast of the Fall Line. The general topography of the inner Coastal Plain is rolling and hilly, often very similar to that of the Sandhills region. A series of terraces that represent former shorelines of North America comprise the Coastal Plain. Changes in sea level over the past 20 to 30 million years resulted in the formation of these terraces; most are composed of sandy soils with some gravels derived from beach and deltaic deposits associated with the shorelines (Kovacik and Winberry 1987).

Hot humid summers and moderately cold but short winters characterize the climate in the project area. Average temperatures vary from 43° F in winter to 78° F in summer; however, the daily average maximum temperature for the summer is 89° F. Approximately 1.24 meters (4.07 feet) of precipitation, principally rain, falls in the region each year. Precipitation is most common in April to September, with 57 percent of all rainfall occurring during this period (Lawrence 1978:1-2).

Holocene Changes in the Environment

Researchers have documented profound changes in climate and dependent biophysical aspects of regional environments over the last 20,000 years (the time of potential human occupation of the Southeast). Major changes include a general warming trend, melting of the large ice sheets of the Wisconsin glaciation in northern North America, and

the associated rise in sea level. This sea level rise was dramatic along the South Carolina coast (Brooks et al. 1989), with an increase of as much as 100 meters (330 feet) during the last 20,000 years. At 10,000 years ago (the first documented presence of human groups in the region) the ocean was located 80-160 kilometers (50-100 miles) east of its present position. Sea level steadily rose from that time until about 5,000 years ago, when the sea reached essentially modern levels. During the last 5,000 years there has been a 400-500 year cycle of sea level fluctuations of about two meters (Brooks et al. 1989; Colquhoun et al. 1981). Table 1 summarizes these more recent fluctuations in the region.

Table 1. South Carolina Sea Level Curve Data (after Brooks et al. 1989).

<u>Calendar Date</u>	<u>Sea Level</u>	<u>Condition</u>
5000 BC	6.5 m (21.3 ft)	In continuing rise
3000 BC	4.5 m (14.7 ft)	Significant low stand
2800 BC	1.5 m (4.9 ft)	High stand
2500 BC	3.5 m (11.4 ft)	Low stand
2200 BC	1.0 m (3.2 ft)	High stand
1900 BC	3.2 m (10.4 ft)	Low stand
1700 BC	0.8 m (2.6 ft)	Significant high stand
1300 BC	4.0 m (13.1 ft)	Significant low stand
1000 BC	1.0 m (3.2 ft)	High stand
800 BC	1.9 m (6.2 ft)	Low stand
600 BC	0.7 m (2.3 ft)	High stand
400 BC	3.0 m (9.8 ft)	Significant low stand
AD 300	0.4 m (1.3 ft)	High stand
AD 600	0.6 m (1.9 ft)	Low stand
AD 900	0.4 m (1.3 ft)	High stand
AD 1300	1.2 m (3.9 ft)	Low stand
AD 1989	0.0 m (0.0 ft)	In continuing rise

Sea level is in meters and feet below present high marsh surface.

As sea level quickly rose to modern levels, it altered the gradients of major rivers and flooded near-coast river valleys, creating estuaries like the Cooper-Ashley-Wando River mouths. These estuaries became great centers for saltwater and freshwater resources, and

thus population centers for human groups. Such dramatic changes affected any human groups living in the region.

The general warming trend that led to the melting of glacial ice and the rise in sea level also greatly affected vegetative communities in the Southeast. During the late Wisconsin glacial period, until about 12,000 years ago, boreal forest dominated by pine and spruce covered most of the Southeast. This forest changed from coniferous trees to deciduous trees by 10,000 years ago. Northern hardwoods such as beech, hemlock, and alder dominated the new deciduous forest, with oak and hickory increasing in number. With the continuation of the general warming and drying trend, oak and hickory came to dominate the forest, along with southern species of pine; from pollen data it appears that oak and hickory reached a peak at 7,000 to 5,000 years ago (Watts 1970, 1980; Whitehead 1965, 1973). Since then, the general climatic trend in the Southeast is toward cooler and moister conditions, allowing the present Southern Mixed Hardwood Forest, as defined by Quarterman and Keever (1962), to become established. Faunal communities also changed dramatically during this time. Several large mammal species (e.g., mammoth, mastodon, horse, camel, giant sloth) became extinct at the end of the glacial period, approximately 12,000 to 10,000 years ago. Prehistoric human groups in the Southeast that focused on hunting these large mammals adapted their strategy to the exploitation of smaller mammals, primarily deer.

Description of the Project Tract

Wilson Branch is a tributary of the Great Pee Dee River. The Pee Dee is one of the largest rivers in South Carolina, winding along the coast from the North Carolina border to the Atlantic Ocean for 317 kilometers (197 miles). The project tract lies within the eastern part of Chesterfield County, within the Town of Cheraw.

The soils in the project area consist of Emporia loamy sand. Morton (1995) describes these soils as, "very deep, well drained, moderately slowly permeable or slowly permeable soils that formed in loamy marine sediments." These soils occur on ridges and side slopes on the Coastal Plain. Slopes range from 0 to 10 percent. The soils are fine-loamy, siliceous, thermic Typic Hapludults.

Archaeologists observed grayish brown loamy sand with weak fine granular structure 0- 20 cm (0-0.65 feet) below surface (bs). This soil was underlain by very pale brown loamy sand from 20- 26 cm (0.65-0.85 feet) bs. Yellowish brown sandy clay loam was encountered from 26-95+ cm (0.85-3.0+ feet).

Cultural Setting

The prehistory of coastal South Carolina has received much attention from archaeologists. Current interpretations of that prehistory are presented briefly in this section. Readers are directed to Goodyear and Hanson (1989) for detailed overviews of previous research in the region. The following summary is divided into periods that represent distinct cultural adaptations in the region. Table 2 summarizes these periods. Descriptions of the environmental changes that occurred in each period also are presented.

Table 2. Cultural Sequence for the Charleston Region.

<u>Beginning Date</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Comments</u>
AD 1670	Historic	Early settlement followed by dominance of slave-based plantation agriculture; Native Americans present until early eighteenth century.
AD 1521	Protohistoric	Continuation of Mississippian lifeways with increasing dependence on European trade; population decline due to introduced diseases, European slave raids, and internecine warfare.
AD 1000	Mississippian	Corn agriculture; increased populations; stratified society; complicated stamped ceramics; small triangular arrow points.
1500 BC	Woodland	Continued hunting and gathering, perhaps supplemented by incipient agriculture; sedentary villages; ceramics, stamped and fabric/cord impressed; large stemmed point early in the period replaced by small triangular arrow points later.
8000 BC	Archaic	Hunting and gathering (Primary Forest Efficiency) with scheduled, seasonal rounds; some sedentism noted at the end of the period in larger shell mound sites of the coast and major rivers; small and large notched points; fiber tempered ceramics late in the period.
10000 BC	Paleoindian	Nomadic hunting (free based wandering) of the now extinct megafauna. Distinctive fluted spear points.

Paleoindian Period (10000-8000 BC)

Human presence in the South Carolina Coastal Plain apparently began about 12,000 years ago with the movement of hunter-gatherers into the region. Goodyear et al. (1989) review the evidence for the Paleoindian occupation of South Carolina. Based on the distribution of distinctive fluted spear points diagnostic of the period, they see the major sources of highly workable lithic raw materials as the principal determinant of Paleoindian site location. The concentration of sites at the Fall Line possibly indicates a subsistence strategy of seasonal relocation between the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Based on data from many sites excavated over most of North America, Paleoindian groups were generally

nomadic. Their subsistence focused on the hunting of large mammals, specifically the now-extinct mammoth, horse, camel, and giant bison. Groups were probably small kin-based bands of 50 or fewer persons. As the environment changed at the end of the Wisconsin glaciation, Paleoindian groups adapted to new forest conditions in the Southeast and throughout North America.

Archaic Period (8000-1500 BC)

The Archaic is a long period of adaptation to modern forest conditions in eastern North America. Caldwell (1958) characterizes the period as movement toward Primary Forest Efficiency, by which he means that during this period human groups continually developed new and more effective subsistence strategies for exploiting the wild resources of the modern oak-hickory forest. Based on extensive work in the North Carolina Piedmont, Coe (1964) subdivides the Archaic period into several sequential phases recognizable by distinctive stone point/knife forms. Coe's (1964) sequence has been confirmed over large parts of the Southeast, and is applicable to most of South Carolina. The Archaic also is divided into three temporal sub-periods, Early (8000-6000 BC), Middle (6000-2500 BC), and Late (2500-1000 BC).

Archaic groups probably moved seasonably within a regular territory, planning and scheduling the exploitation of wild plant and animal resources. Anderson and Hanson (1988) developed a settlement model for the Early Archaic (8000-6000 BC) in South Carolina involving seasonal movement of relatively small groups (bands) within major river drainages. The Charleston region lies within the range of the Saluda/Broad band. Anderson

and Hanson (1988) hypothesize that Early Archaic use of the Lower Coastal Plain was limited to seasonal (spring time) foraging camps and logistical camps; aggregation camps and winter base camps are thought to have been near the Fall Line. They also suggest that as population increased in the Middle Archaic (6000-2500 BC), band mobility decreased and territoriality increased. Blanton and Sassaman (1989) review the archaeological literature on the Middle Archaic sub-period. They document an increased simplification of lithic technology through this period, with increased use of expedient, situational tools. Furthermore, they argue that the use of local lithic raw materials is characteristic of the Middle and Late Archaic. Blanton and Sassaman (1989:68) conclude that "the data at hand suggest that Middle Archaic populations resorted to a pattern of adaptive flexibility as a response to" mid-Holocene environmental conditions such as variable precipitation, sea level rise, and differential vegetational succession. These processes resulted in changes in the types of resources available from year to year.

Generally, there is evidence of extensive trade networks covering large areas of North America and of the establishment of sedentary villages during the Late Archaic subperiod (2500-1000 BC). Some of the best evidence of sedentary villages occurs along the South Carolina coast as large middens of oyster shell and other food remains. These refuse heaps probably indicate substantial, relatively long term habitations. Also, the first evidence of the manufacture and use of ceramics dates from the Ceramic Late Archaic sub-period.

Woodland Period (1500 BC-AD 1000)

During the succeeding Woodland period, sedentism apparently increases, although scheduled exploitation of wild food resources in a seasonal round continues. The Woodland period is noteworthy for several technological and social developments: (1) the widespread manufacture and use of ceramics for cooking and storage, (2) the beginnings of agriculture, and (3) construction of burial mounds and other earthworks. Woodland period ceramics are widespread and are found at many small sites throughout the state. The varied manufacturing procedures and decorative styles of these ceramics permit differentiation of site collections into three sub-periods (Early, Middle, and Late) and inferences concerning group movement and influences from adjacent geographic areas. Trinkley (1980) and Anderson et al. (1982) developed classificatory schemes for Woodland period groups based on ceramics from many sites. Following Anderson et al. (1982), Poplin et al. (1993) developed a classificatory scheme for the ceramic producing prehistoric periods in the Charleston region. Table 3 presents this scheme, with additional data drawn from Blanton et al. (1986), DePratter (1979), and Trinkley (1980, 1981, 1989, 1990). Burial mounds and earthworks have been discovered in the area. Clarence Bloomfield Moore, in 1897-1898, investigated fourteen mounds and nine sites in neighboring Beaufort County, South Carolina (Larson 1998:51-59; Brooks et al. 1982).

Mississippian Period (AD 1000-1521)

The final period of prehistory in South Carolina, the Mississippian period, begins about AD 1000 and ends with the arrival and colonization of the area by Europeans in the

Table 3. Ceramic Sequence for the Central Coast of South Carolina.

<u>Period/Sub-period</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ceramic Types</u>
Protohistoric	AD 1521 - 1715	Ashley Complicated Stamped Ashley Burnished Plain
Mississippian	AD 1400 - 1550	Pee Dee Complicated Stamped Pee Dee Incised Pee Dee Burnished Plain
	AD 1100 - 1400	Savannah/Jeremy Complicated Stamped Savannah Check Stamped Savannah Burnished Plain
Late Woodland	AD 900 - 1100	Santee Simple Stamped McClellanville Fabric Impressed McClellanville Cord Marked Wilmington Cord Marked
	AD 500-900	McClellanville Cord Marked McClellanville Fabric Impressed Wilmington Cord Marked Wilmington Fabric Impressed Wilmington Plain Deptford Cord Marked Deptford Fabric Impressed
Middle Woodland	AD 200 - 500	Wilmington Check Stamped Wilmington Cord Marked Wilmington Fabric Impressed Wilmington Plain Deptford Cord Marked Deptford Fabric Impressed Deptford Check Stamped Deptford Linear Check Stamped Deptford Plain
	200 BC - AD 200	Deptford Check Stamped Deptford Linear Check Stamped Deptford Simple Stamped Deptford Plain Hanover Fabric Impressed Hanover Cord Marked
Early Woodland	1000 - 200 BC	Deptford Check Stamped Deptford Linear Check Stamped Deptford Simple Stamped (rare) Deptford Plain Hanover Fabric Impressed Hanover Cord Marked
	1500 - 1000 BC	Refuge Incised Refuge Punctate Refuge Dentate Stamped Refuge Simple Stamped Refuge Plain
Ceramic Late Archaic	2500 - 1000 BC	Thom's Creek Incised Thom's Creek Simple Stamped Thom's Creek Linear Punctate Thom's Creek Drag and Jab Punctate Thom's Creek Plain Stallings Incised Stallings Simple Stamped Stallings Drag and Jab Punctate Stallings Linear Punctate Stallings Plain

1500s and 1600s. During the Mississippian period, agriculture became well established, and sedentary villages and towns became the dominant habitation type (although relatively isolated farmsteads were also apparently common - see Brooks and Canouts 1984). Ferguson (1971) proposed a model of Mississippian settlement involving major political centers dominated and surrounded by smaller villages and farmsteads. Major centers apparently were spaced about 160 kilometers (100 miles) apart; hypothesized centers in the project region were located at Town Creek (North Carolina), near Camden, Lake Marion, and Charleston (South Carolina), and near Augusta and Savannah (Georgia- Ferguson 1971). Anderson (1989) and DePratter (1989) identified large political centers on the Wateree River (near Camden), on the Oconee River (in central Georgia), and at Savannah (Georgia). These centers usually contained one or more large mounds upon which temples were built. It should be noted that the ceremonial center at the original Charles Towne settlement on Albemarle Point (38CH1) contained no mound structure. Mississippian society likely was highly stratified, with hereditary ruling families, middle and poorer classes, and slaves (usually prisoners taken in war from other groups).

Colonial Period

The South Carolina coast was first permanently settled by Europeans in 1670 with the establishment of Charles Towne. This early settlement grew slowly and by 1700, the Low Country of South Carolina contained only around 5,000 European and African-American inhabitants. The port of Georgetown was established in 1730, with local populations dramatically increasing. Also during the early 1700s large tracts of land were

granted to a number of individuals who established plantations along the major rivers. These plantations were directed toward the production of cash crops. Main plantation residences and facilities were established on the low bluffs of the rivers and readily accessible river landings. The central portions of most plantations were utilized for minor gardening, pasturage, and the acquisition of various forest resources through hunting, fishing, and lumbering (Rogers 1970). Soon, the upper Low Country settlements such as Britton's Neck started to trade surplus agricultural products to feed the growing populations related to the Georgetown rice culture.

Settlements were established in the region for several reasons. One was to provide a buffer against Indian and Spanish attacks against coastal settlements. The new township, named Williamsburg, was located in Prince Frederick's Parish in Craven County. It was settled mainly by poor Protestant Scots-Irish who came looking for land they could own (Boddie 1923). Small settlements soon spread throughout the Pee Dee and Lynches Rivers area. With the subdivisions of land in the Pee Dee, settlement proceeded slowly until the 1750s when the South Carolina Back Country population was approximately 20,000, about one-third of the total low country population (Wallace 1961). With the establishment of judicial districts for the South Carolina in the 1760s, settlement, political stability, and overall prosperity grew rapidly.

Cheraw was formally laid out as a town in 1766 but several decades prior was a thriving community. The Town was known by various names including Cheraw Hill and Chatham. The Town was officially named Cheraw when it was incorporated in 1820. Its laws and ordinances were so well formulated that they were borrowed by Atlanta, Georgia.

Because of certain historical events little is known about the specific family settlements around Cheraw. In 1804 the Cheraw Courthouse burned under questionable circumstances and all records prior to that time were destroyed in the fire (Cable and Cantey 1979).

The Town of Cheraw was positioned on a bluff above the Pee Dee River and could be accessed by boats coming up from Georgetown or Charleston. Early industries centered on indigo, cattle, and cotton. The timber industry prospered and brick manufacture was necessary to meet local demand. By 1766, exportable quantities of indigo were available for shipment to London, and by the late eighteenth century, Cheraw was the central cotton market for the region (Edgar 1998).

By the time the Revolutionary War began, Chesterfield County raised tobacco, cattle, and sheep. However, the major markets for many of the locally produced goods disappeared with the advent of the war. The residents of the region were not wholly in support of the Revolutionary War. Most of them supported the rebels, condemning excessive taxes while a few still preferred British rule to what they considered anarchy. A number of battles were fought in the Pee Dee area, with many of the operations under the command of Francis Marion being base from nearby Snow's Island (Edgar 1998).

While no battles were fought in Cheraw, Cornwallis and a regiment were sent to keep order in the South Carolina backcountry. Given the ruthless nature of the war in South Carolina, most citizens of Chesterfield aided the American cause. The overwhelming majority of those living in the backcountry had been in the state a short while, generally less than fifteen years. Most had emigrated from Germany, Ireland, or Scotland and may have resented the British for seven centuries of oppression, before entering the Colony. The

British expected thousands of South Carolinians to rise up and join their cause once they captured Charleston. Many did, but outside the Lowcountry, British control was tenuous at best. In 1780, the British found it necessary to build an outpost on the Pee Dee River at Cheraw to control local uprisings. Following skirmishes in the area, St. David's Episcopal Church was used as a temporary hospital by British soldiers (NRHP Inventory-Nomination Form: 10-300a, July 1969).

By the end of the war, most of Chesterfield County's cattle and sheep had either been appropriated by the British during their activities in the area or taken by rebel factions. After the war the cattle industry quickly recovered, as there was a high demand for beef in Georgetown and Charleston. Tobacco again became important, in addition to the newly flourishing cotton trade.

Antebellum and Civil War Period

In the post-Colonial antebellum period, cotton boomed and settlement progressed rapidly in the area. As plantations were established in the backcountry, the importance of slaves increased in South Carolina. The state's dependence on cotton, however, caused a continual out-migration after the War of 1812 grew as farmers sought new and more fertile land for production. In Alabama, planters could produce as much as three times the amount of cotton per acre as those in South Carolina. The *Camden Journal* reported in 1835 that "the old and young are preparing to emigrate, and the inquiry is not whether you are going, but when you go" (Edgar 1998:276). The census figures indicate that the Kershaw District newspaper was correct. As many as 800 residents a week were leaving Chesterfield,

Kershaw, Edgefield, and Marlboro counties. Between 1820 and 1860 nearly 200,000 whites (about one half those born in the state) had moved elsewhere. The black out-migration was almost as large. As many as 179,000 black Carolinians went west with their owners (Edgar 1998).

Mills' 1825 map of the Chesterfield District provides a view of antebellum settlements in the area (Figure 2). Plantations, towns, and meeting houses were generally situated along high bluff roads above major swamps or rivers. Population density was still low at this time.

The advent of railroads changed the marketing of tobacco and cotton in the county. The Northeast Railway built a line that ran from Charleston through to the Pee Dee River area in 1856, and after that cotton and tobacco were shipped by rail to Charleston, rather than Georgetown (Boddie 1923). The railroad also opened up the area to new industries. The lumber and naval stores industry soon became an important economic force in the area. The Merchants Bank of Cheraw was also a successful banking operation chartered in the 1850s. The bank helped enhance the regions growing commercial activity of the 1850s (Edgar 1998:284).

Although the 1850s were a prosperous period, there were warning signs that Cheraw's economic well-being was illusory. Chesterfield County's per capita income was the forth lowest in the state and only 37 percent of the population was black. There was a direct correlation between slave ownership and wealth. The 10 richest districts in South Carolina were better than 60 percent black; the 10 poorest had a white majority. On the eve

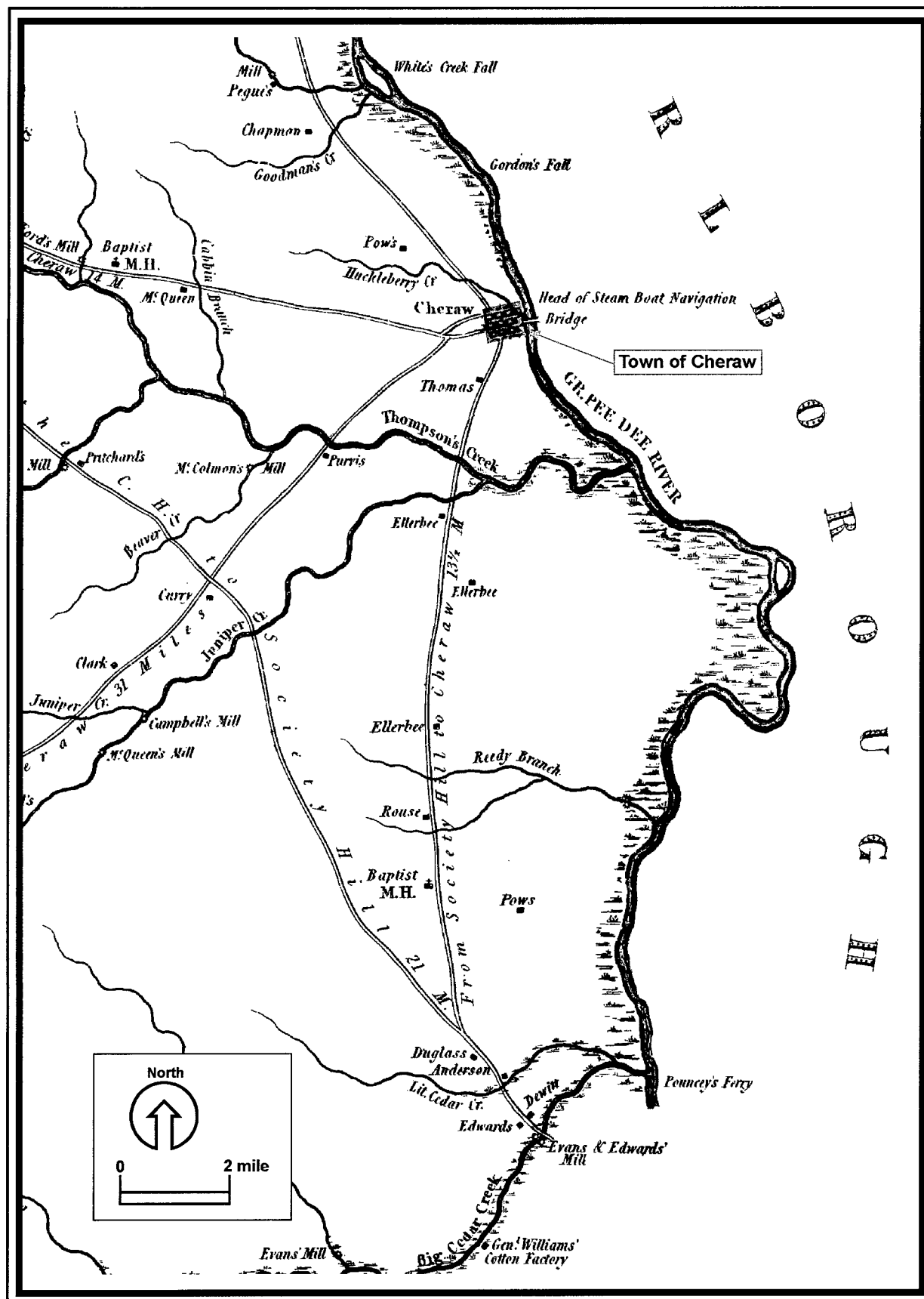


Figure 2. A portion of Mills' 1825 map showing Chesterfield District and the Town of Cheraw.

of the American Civil War, it was obvious to anyone willing to look that the economic system founded on staple crop production was beginning to unravel.

In 1860, John Auchincloss Inglis of Cheraw was sent to the Secession Convention and introduced the resolution "that the State of South Carolina should forthwith secede from the Federal Union, known as the United States of America" (NRHP Inventory-Nomination Form: 10-300a, July 1969). The Civil War had a significant impact on Chesterfield County. While no major battles occurred in the area, the war drew heavily on the local white population. In addition, the agricultural and production efforts of the county were stressed fully to help provision the Confederacy. As 1864 ended, Sherman was poised to enter South Carolina, and the state's leadership was incapacitated by the threat. With a force of fewer than twenty thousand soldiers (most younger than seventeen), General Beauregard had to decide where to place his troops. He finally decided to defend Charleston, Augusta, and Columbia. The undermanned Confederacy was no match for Sherman's sixty thousand seasoned troops. Other than sniping and rearguard action there was little resistance as main columns of Sherman's army marched into Cheraw 3 March 1865. Figure 3 is an illustration of Union forces entering the Town (Davis et al. 1891).

By night the occupying army was a drunken mob and many of Cheraw's businesses were set ablaze. As Sherman settled down to a night of sleep in Cheraw, his soldiers were busy looting local homes and businesses. His forces remained in Cheraw for three days and St. David's Episcopal Church was again used as a temporary hospital for wounded soldiers. Residential homes, however, were spared and as quickly as they had come the Union forces moved on to Florence (Edgar 1998:373). The war that had been inevitable once South

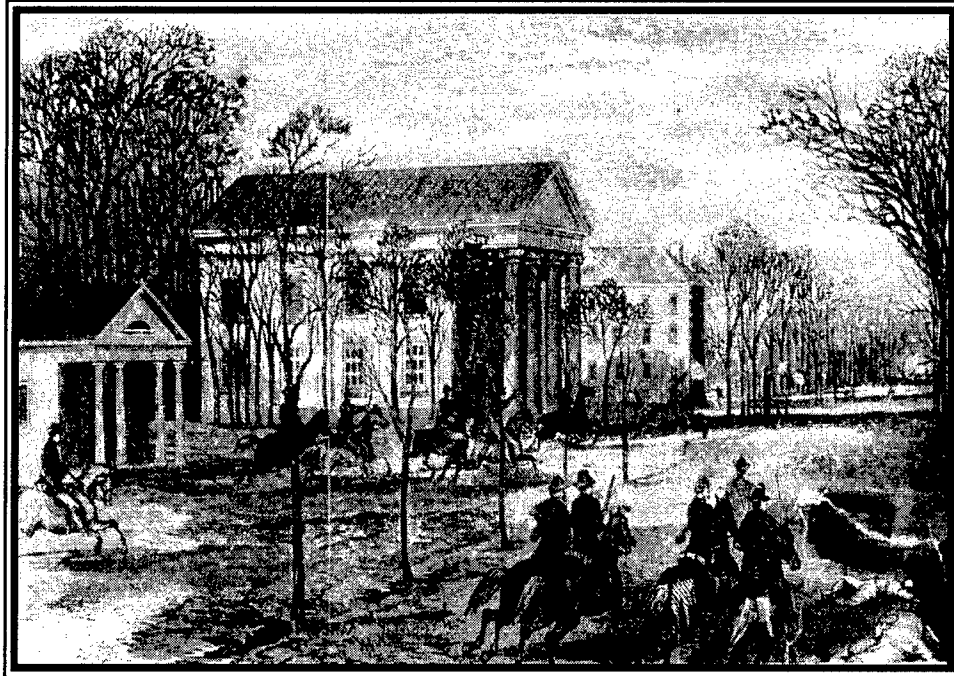


Figure 3. Illustration of Union forces entering Cheraw (Davis et al. 1891)

Carolina seceded in 1860 had come home with a fury. The economic and social order that the planters of South Carolina had hoped to protect and preserve had disappeared even before Appomattox.

Postbellum and Modern Periods

After the Civil War, the settlement and labor systems of Chesterfield County were drastically changed. Instead of nucleated plantation systems, a more dispersed settlement pattern developed as tenant farming and small farm ownership became prevalent. However, the impact was not as significant as in adjoining counties where slavery played a larger role. The economy of the county remained agricultural with both tobacco and cotton as important

products. In 1880, share-cropped farms accounted for 25-34 percent of the land in Chesterfield County (The History Group 1981).

In 1918, the boll weevil arrived in Chesterfield County (The History Group 1981). The immediate and inevitable response was a switch to tobacco as the major economic crop, a pattern which has held into modern times. During the 1920s, the textile industry expanded, and by 1925 Cheraw was producing large quantities of cotton goods. The expansion of textiles in Chesterfield created a false sense of prosperity. Low demand and overproduction resulted in a steady decline in prices and wages. Most mills were only marginally successful until World War II when textile mills operated in three shifts around the clock (Edgar 1998:513).

In 2002, Chesterfield County has a population of approximately 40,000. Cheraw, the largest town, has a population of 5,500. While some industries are present in the county, it remains predominately an agricultural area (Pitts 1974). Most of the land is woodland, but some areas are used for row crops such as corn, soybeans, and tobacco (Morton 1995). Employment in textile manufacturing, once the backbone of Cheraw, has all but disappeared. Plant modernization and mechanization made many of the local mills obsolete. By the 1990s, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the general trend towards "globalization" had effectively destroyed the textile industry in Chesterfield County. For small towns like Cheraw, the closing of the mills meant not only double digit unemployment but often financial ruin for local businesses. The decline of agriculture and textiles has led to a steady out-migration from Chesterfield and other rural counties in South Carolina (Edgar 1998).

A Brief History of Wilson Branch

Very little is known about the initial settlements along Wilson Branch. Records for the county were burned in 1804 and again in 1865 when Sherman's army marched into the area. In addition, this particular tributary of Huckleberry Creek is unnavigable and never receives any mention in the eighteenth or nineteenth century historic records. The Project Historian searched for plats and deed references in the Chesterfield County Courthouse to better understand recent land ownership along Wilson Branch. Information concerning Cheraw was collected from the Chesterfield County Library's Local History Room, and the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston. The most valuable source was a number of local informants from Cheraw who had a first-hand knowledge of Wilson Branch. As a result of their recollections, our research focuses on twentieth century activity around Wilson Branch.

The Wilson Branch APE begins in the Town of Cheraw's Huckleberry Park. This park also will be the location of one of two staging areas. Figure 4 is a typical view of Wilson Branch as it passes through Huckleberry Park. This park was created in 1986 after the Town of Cheraw and the USACE removed four brick homes from the flood plain. Two of the homes were relocated and the remaining two were destroyed and removed (Personal communication Phillip Powell, 15 June 2002). The area is currently manicured and outfitted with picnic tables.

Wilson Branch and its two unnamed tributaries converge in an area known as Bomar Gardens. The Roger's family owns a significant amount of property surrounding Wilson Branch and built Bomar Gardens in the early 1960s (Chesterfield County Deed Book



Figure 4. A view of Wilson Branch as it passes through Huckleberry Park.

316:401). Figure 5 provides a view of the southern tributary of Wilson Branch and a bridge crossing the northern tributary of the creek in an area associated with a small waterfall. The Rogers family has been in Cheraw for decades and operated a textile mill until the 1990s when their plant closed. The family currently operates Palmetto Brick Works (ca. 1913) in Marlboro County (Personal communication Phillip Powell, 20 June 2002).

Robert S. Rogers III consolidated several adjoining tracts along Wilson Branch in the 1960s. This area was used as a recreation area for Cheraw since the 1930s. Figure 6 is a picture of a group of ladies enjoying Wilson Springs Swimming Pool in Cheraw in the late 1930s (Historical Society of Chesterfield:2000). It is not known where this “swimming pool” was located though we believe it is associated with three small ponds adjacent to

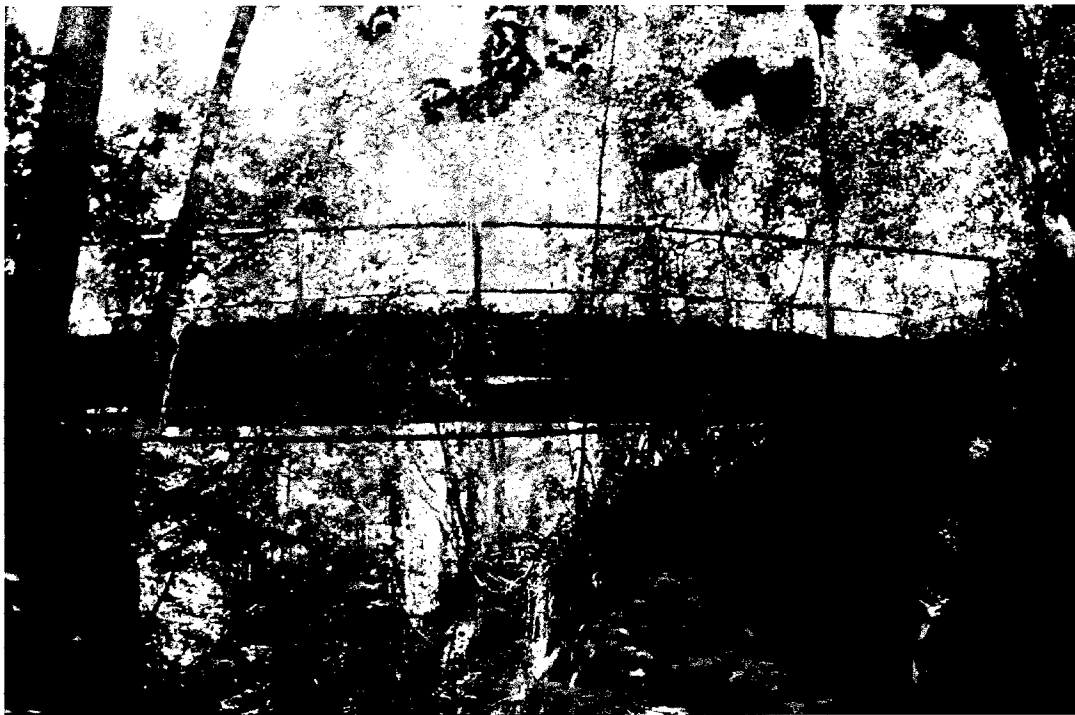


Figure 5. Views of the project at Bomar Park showing the southeastern tributary (top) and the bridge over the southwestern tributary (bottom).

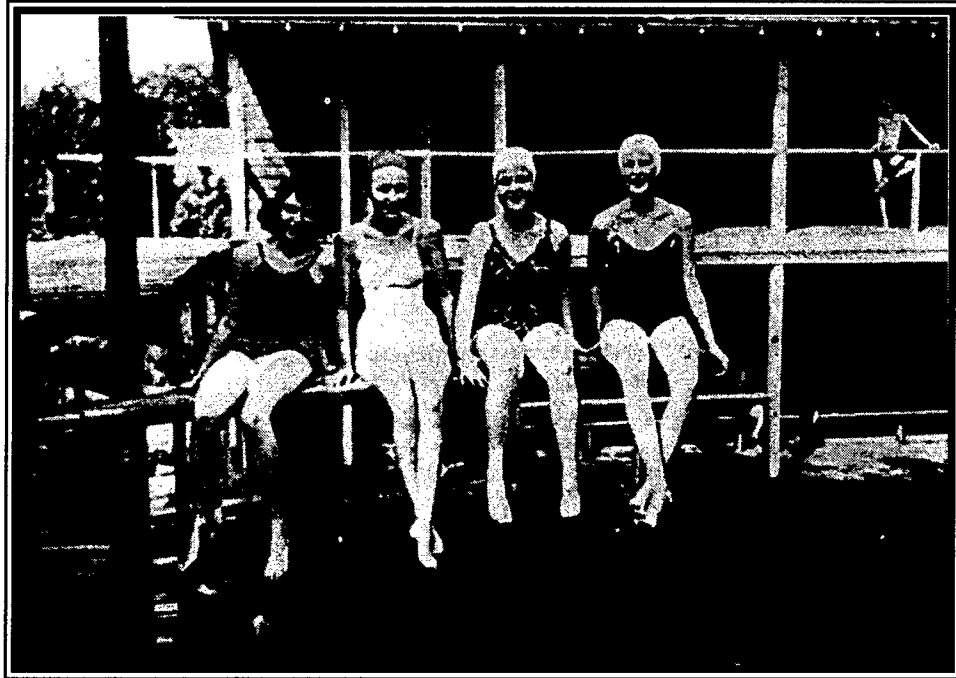


Figure 6. Ladies enjoying Wilson Springs swimming pool.

Wilson Branch's northern tributary. Figure 7 is a plat of the Roger's property that became Bomar Park in February 1966. Mr. Karlo Baker, a lifelong resident of Cheraw, informed us that the area around Bomar Gardens was known for cool, spring water and made an excellent swimming spot in the hot South Carolina summers. He told us that the creek was much deeper when he was a child, and had dropped significantly when Dr. Ted Coggeshall and Mr. Hammond had built ponds using the tributaries of Wilson Branch as their primary source of water (Personal communication Karlos Baker, 16 May 2002).

Figure 8 is a picture of Bomar Gardens included in an undated promotional pamphlet for Cheraw, South Carolina, "The Prettiest Town in Dixie." The caption reads:

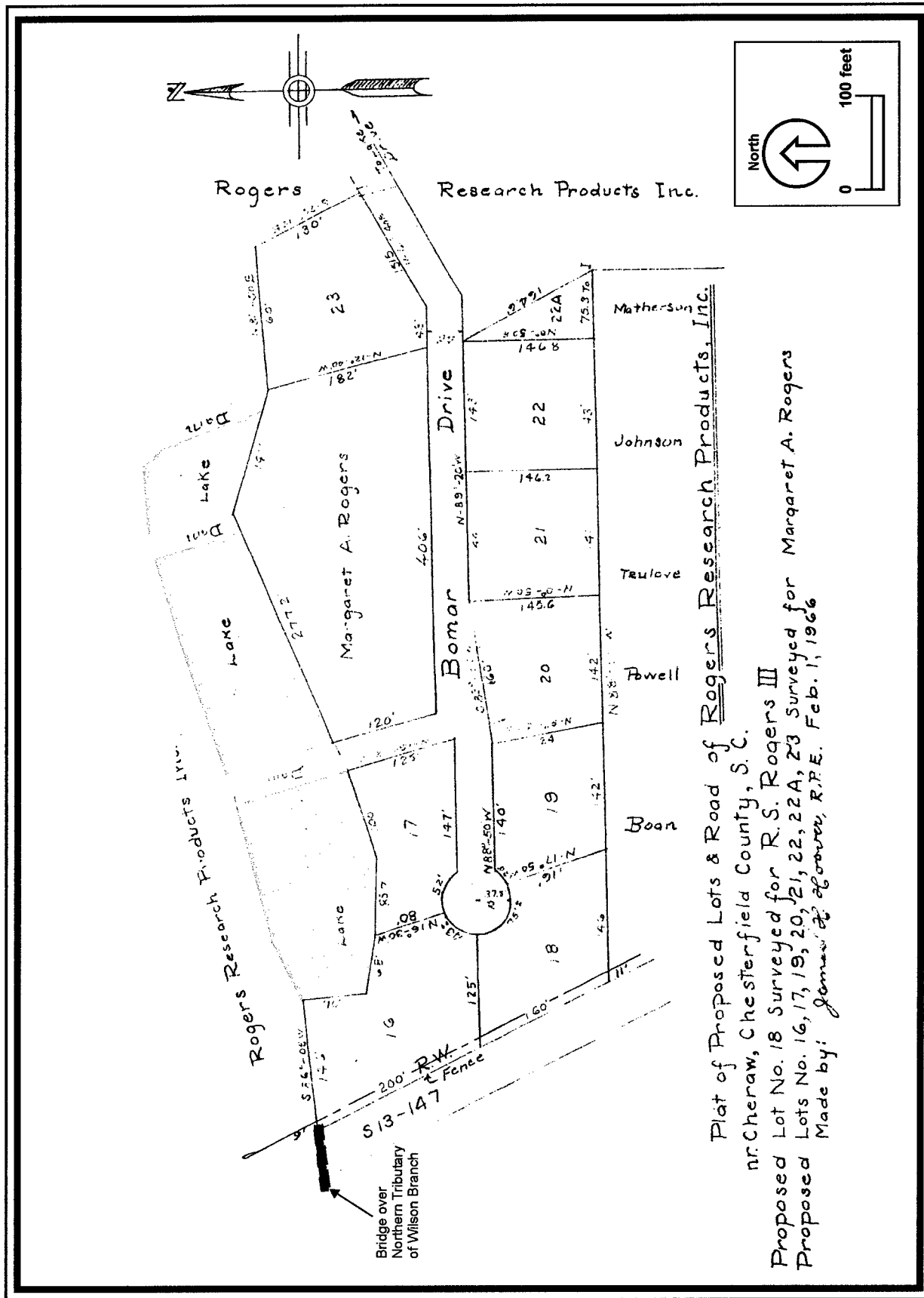


Figure 7. A 1966 plat of Roger's property that became Bomar Gardens.

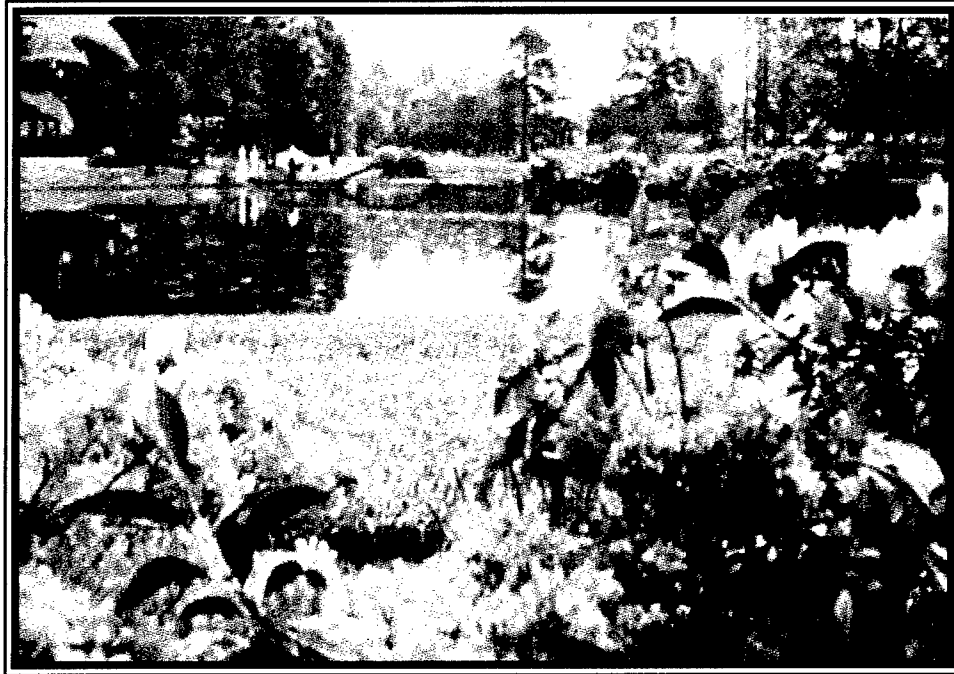


Figure 8. A picture of Bomar Gardens included in an undated promotional pamphlet for Cheraw, South Carolina.

Bomar Water Gardens—Comprises 22 acres of dogwood and magnolia trees. Camillias, azaleas, iris, water lilies and many other flowers and shrubs. Water falls, pools and small lakes, together with well kept pathways, make it a beautiful place to visit. Antique acres, with its Annual Spring “Steamup”, display of antique engines and equipment are located here. A small admission is charged.

Mr. Rogers collected old steam engines and held an annual display between the unnamed tributaries of Wilson Branch (Personal communication Karlo Baker, 16 May 2002). Today, the area is called antique acres. The area is currently covered in hardwoods and remains of Mr. Roger’s engine collection still litter the area. Figure 9 provides a view of the abandoned steam engine in May 2002.



Figure 9. A view of Mr. Roger's abandoned steam engines.

The remainder of Wilson Branch and the two unnamed tributaries cross numerous private tracts. In the northwest portion of the APE, the tributaries of Wilson Branch run very close to Coggeshall and Hammond ponds. These ponds appear to use a significant amount of water from the tributaries of Wilson Branch. The APE ends in a swampy area, east of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad (see Figure 1).

Previous Investigations

There are no recorded archaeological sites within 1.6 kilometers (one mile) of the Wilson Branch (APE). The Cheraw Historic District is located 200 meters (660 feet) east of the APE (see Figure 1). Cheraw Historic District is characterized by various styles of nineteenth century American architecture. Located within the district are the early frame

homes of the 1800s (often called upcountry farmhouses), antebellum structures with Greek Revival porticos, and Victorian houses of the turn of the century. There is a definite sense of architectural unity throughout the town and a continuity of design that identifies this as a historic district. The historic district contains 33 historic architectural resources (NRHP Inventory-Nomination Form: 10-300a, July 1969).

Chapter III. Results and Recommendations

On 13-14 May 2002, archaeologists from Brockington and Associates, Inc., and Ms. Rea Rogers of the USACE conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of 2,564 meters (8,410 foot) of bankline (approximately 6.8 hectares [17 acres]) along Wilson Branch, in the Town of Cheraw, South Carolina. The project tract begins south of US Route 52 and extends 836 meters (2,742 feet) along Wilson Branch, to where Wilson Branch diverges into two unnamed tributaries. From this point, the project tract continues along the respective banks of each of the two tributaries. The project extends 994 meters (3,260 feet) along the southeastern stream branch, and 734 meters (2,407 ft) along the southwestern stream branch. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed improvements to Wilson Branch extends 8-30 meters (25-100 feet) inland from the current stream banks. We conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the APE to determine if land disturbing activities will affect any historic properties.

We excavated shovel tests along each transect at 30 meter (100 foot) intervals. Each shovel test measured approximately 30 cm (1 foot) in diameter and was excavated to sterile subsoil. Archaeologists excavated 170 shovel tests at 30 meter (100 foot) intervals along Wilson Branch and the unnamed tributaries.

The northern terminus of Wilson Branch begins in the Town of Cheraw's Huckleberry Park and continues south past several residential lots into a wooded area (see Figure 4). Wilson Branch diverges into two separate tributaries in a manicured area associated with privately-owned Bomar Park. The southeastern tributary of Wilson Branch

is primarily bottomland covered in hardwoods bordering on a small number of residential lots. Figure 10 (top) presents a view of this portion of the project. The southwestern tributary of Wilson Branch consists primarily of mixed pine and hardwoods bordering on residential neighborhoods associated with two large man-made ponds. These ponds appear to use water from the tributary and the creek is hardly more than a trickle in this area (see Figure 5-bottom). Figure 10 (bottom) presents a view of the main branch of Wilson Creek.

Generally, the soils we observed within the Wilson Branch APE are grayish brown loamy sands with weak fine granular structure 0- 20 cm (0-0.65 feet) below surface (bs). This soil is underlain by very pale brown loamy sand from 20- 26 cm (0.65-0.85 feet) bs. Yellowish brown sandy clay loam is found from 26- 95 cm (0.85-3.0 feet).

Two staging areas for the improvements project are located within the 30 meter (100 foot) APE. The first staging area is located near the northern terminus of the project tract, within Huckleberry Park (owned by the Town of Cheraw). The second staging area is located within the APE at 323 Sliding Hill Road, in the Town of Cheraw. This staging area is located on private land owned by George Martin. Both staging areas were shovel tested at 30 meter (100 foot) intervals on each bank along Wilson Branch. Investigators identified no archaeological sites or isolated finds during the field investigations.

Project Summary and Management Recommendations

We identified no new cultural resources in the proposed Wilson Branch improvements project during these investigations. The Wilson Branch APE is located 200 meters (660 feet) east of the Cheraw Historic District. The proposed improvements do not



Figure 10. Views of the project showing the southeastern tributary looking southwest (top) and the main branch looking south (bottom).

extend into the district, nor will improvements affect any views from the district. No other historic properties are present in or adjacent to the Wilson Branch improvements project. We recommend no further management consideration of the proposed Wilson Branch improvement project with respect to cultural resources.

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Appendix A.

Resume of the Principal Investigator

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Education

- 1997 M.A. The Citadel and The University of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. (History)
1990 B.A. The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (Anthropology)

Employment

- Archaeologist, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 1996 to present
Research Associate, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 1993 to 1995
Archaeological Field Technician, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 1992

Reports And Papers Presented

- 1993 (with Eric C. Poplin and David C. Jones)
Fort Jackson Military Reservation Historic Preservation Plan- Volume I: Cultural Resources Management Plan. Prepared for the Fort Jackson Directorate of Public Works and the US Army Corps of Engineers- Savannah District, Savannah, Georgia.
- 1993 (with Eric C. Poplin)
Fort Jackson Military Reservation Historic Preservation Plan- Volume III: Archaeological Site Database. Prepared for the Fort Jackson Directorate of Public Works and the US Army Corps of Engineers- Savannah District, Savannah, Georgia.
- 1993 (with Eric C. Poplin and Kenneth F. Styer)
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- 1994 (with Eric C. Poplin and Elsie Eubanks)
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- 1995 *An Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the McCurry Tract, Calhoun County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Blue Circle Cement Company, Harleyville, South Carolina.
- 1995 *An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Sandpit Road Mine Site, Dorchester County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Banks Construction Company, North Charleston, South Carolina.
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- 1995 *An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Keiffer Tract, Jasper County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Coastal Concrete, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.
- 1995 *An Intensive Archaeological Survey of a 34 Acre and a 7 Acre Portion of the Ponds Plantation Tract, Dorchester County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Ralph B. Simmons, Jr., Anderson.
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- 1996 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Cone Mine Site, Dorchester County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Palmetto Sand Company, Summerville.
- 1996 *Cultural Resources Overview, Tega Cay Development Tract, York County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Tega Cay Communities, LLC.
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- 1996 *Cultural Resources Survey of the Waddell Road Realignment Corridor, Beaufort County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Andrews Engineering Company, Port Royal.
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- 1998 *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Proposed Dirt Cheap Inc. Borrow Pits, City of Charleston, Berkeley County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Bridge Creek, LLC, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.
- 1998 (with Harry Pecorelli and Todd McMakin)
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- 1998 (with Scott Wolf)
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- 1999 *Cultural Resources Inventory of the Appian Way Tract, Dorchester County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Ford Development, Inc., Dallas, Texas.
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- 1999 (with Eric C. Poplin and Stephen Roberts)
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- 1999 *Archaeological Testing of 38HR371 and 38HR372, Horry County, South Carolina.* Prepared for Taylor, Mahon, and Associates, Inc., Pawleys Island, South Carolina.
- 1999 (with Harry Pecorelli, III and Bruce G. Harvey)
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- 1999 *Cultural Resources Survey of Molasses Creek Crossing, Charleston County, South Carolina.* Prepared for George Christodal, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.
- 1999 (with Bruce Harvey)
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- 1999 (with David Baluha)
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- 2000 *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Proposed Expansion to the Basic Science Building College of Dental Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston.* Prepared for The Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina.
- 2000 (with Kara Bridgman)
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- 2000 *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Seabreeze Development, City of Charleston, South Carolina.* Prepared for Nelson, Mullins, Riley, and Scarborough, LLP, Charleston.
- 2000 (with Kara Bridgman)
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